(b) The income range for determining the eligibility for allotment of flats under MIG|LIG|Janta category under R.P.S. Scheme 1985 is as under:-

MIG ..Rs. 7201 to Rs. 18,000 p.a.

LIG .. Rs. 4201 to Rs. 7200 p.a.

Janta. up to Rs. 4200 p.a.

This is based on the income range as fixed by the Govt.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Imports under O. G. L. by National Co-operative Consumers Federation

443. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have debarred the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India (NCCF) the apex body of the consumers cooperatives from import licences and imports under the Open General Licences (OGL) because of its indulgence in malpractices and mismanagement; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the result of the inquiry conducted into the affairs of the NCCF and further action, if any, proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has debarred the National Cooperative Consumers Federation from receiving Import Licence for 5 (five) licensing periods namely, 1984 to 1988 on the ground of violation of licensing conditions which stipulated that imported dry fruits should be sold in consumer packs through Super Bazars. The National Cooperative Consumers Federation has preferred an appeal against this order.

Outstanding Sugarcane Arrears

444. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of outstanding sugarcane arrears till date in various States, State-wise as compared to the outstanding dues at the end of June, 1984;

(b) what is the amount of the sugarcane arrears outstanding against the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh with names of the mills and the amounts outstanding against each till-date and how does it compare with the outstanding dues at the end of June, 1984; and

(c) what are the reasons for non-clearance of the Sugarcane arrears and what measures have been taken by Government to get them cleared without any delay?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The figures of sugarcane prices payments in respect of sugarcane purchased by vacuum pan sugar factories are available upto the end of May, 1985. Statement 'A' attached gives the State-wise position about the total cane price payable for 1984-85 season, the price paid and that outstanding as on 31.5.85. [*See* Appendix CXXXV, Annexure No. 9] The corresponding position as on 31.5.84 is given in statement 'B' enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXXXV, Annexure No. 10.]

(b) As stated in reply to part (a) above, figures of cane price payments are at present available upto the end of May, 1985. Mill-wise position in respect of sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh as on 31.5.85 alongwith comparative position as on 31.5.84 is given in statement 'C' attached. [*See* Appendix CXXXV, Annexure No. 11.]

(c) As would be observed from the Statement 'A', referred to above as on 31.5.85, only about 4.2 per cent of the total sugarcane price for 1984-85 season remains to be cleared and the position of payments is satisfactory. The balance outstanding is likely to be cleared by the close of the season.

In this connection it may, however, be stated that ensuring payment of cane price dues is the direct responsibility of the State Governments, who have the necessary field organisations and powers to enforce such payments. The Central Government monitors the position, and issues directions to State Governments, from time to time, for expeditious clearance of cane price arrears. The State Governments had been advised to keep a watch on cane price payments from the beginning of the season itself.

The Central Government, on its part, has been taking steps aimed at improving the liquidity of the industry to enable it to pay the cane dues. The steps taken over the last 2-3 years include liberalisation of bank credit facilities, reduction in bank margins on credit against sugar stocks, change in the method of valuation of sugar stocks to the benefit of the industry, judicious monthly releases of free-sale sugar for maintaining desired levels of prices, creation of buffer stocks against which the industry was entitled to 100 per cent credit in addition to holding costs, etc. Besides, ways and means advances had also been granted to a few States in the context of high cane price arrears in those States.

Fall in sugar production

445. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of sugar has declined during the last two years; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) There has been a decline in sugar production to 59.16 lakh tonnes in 1983-84 and to about 61 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 season from the record production of about 84 and 82 lakh tonnes in 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons.

(b) To ensure adequate availability of sugar for internal consumption it has been decided for the present to import 10 lakh tonnes of sugar in the financial year 1985-86. Major portion of the imported sugar is being allocated to the State Governments for distribution in open market at below Rs. 6 per kilogram and Food Corporation of India is also selling stocks against auction/tender in the open market. In addition, certain additional quantities of levy sugar are being envisaged for release as special festival quota to take care of increased demand during festivals. Thus, the available indigenous sugar together with the stock of imported sugar is expected to ensure adequate supplies of sugar for meeting the requirement of internal consumption and to help in keeping prices at reasonable levels.

I.F.W.J's request on verification of memberships of unions

446. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.F.W.J. have requested Government to verify the membership of I.F.W.J. and NUJ in order to decide the question of representation of wage board; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) and (b) Fresh verification of the membership of I.F.W.J. and N.U.J. was one of the suggestions made by the representatives of the I.F.W.J. during the course of a series of meetings held in the Ministry of Labour with the representatives of the two bodies. As the fresh verification would have delayed the constitution of the Wage Board which would not have been in the larger interests of the working journalists community, the I.F.W.J. agreed to nominate a person who has been included on the Wage Board.